United Nations

# Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

## Fourteenth session (31 May-3 June 2005)

**General Assembly**
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**Sixtieth Session**
**Supplement No. 39 (A/60/39)**

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*Note*

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# Chapter I

## Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session

1. The High-level Committee adopted the following decisions at its fourteenth session:

### Decision 14/1
### Review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

*The High-level Committee*,

*Reaffirming* the validity and continued relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries[1] and the importance of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Declaration,[2] and relevant General Assembly resolutions,

*Recognizing* that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

*Reiterating* the importance of development assistance from developed countries to support, inter alia, South-South cooperation and noting ongoing efforts to increase aid effectiveness and efficiency,

*Having considered* the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme,[3]

1. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing number of developing countries, including pivotal countries, are initiating and sponsoring South-South cooperation activities, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, designed to benefit a large number of developing countries;

2. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of triangular cooperation arrangements to facilitate South-South cooperation, and encourages developing countries, regional and subregional institutions and centres of excellence, with the assistance, as appropriate, of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, to draw lessons from experiences in triangular cooperation and design innovative South-South cooperation programmes;

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] SSC/14/1 and Corr.1.

3. *Notes* the recent meeting of the Forum on Partnership for More Effective Development Cooperation, co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in Paris in February 2005;

4. *Stresses* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation;

5. *Encourages* all Member States to cooperate more closely in areas of shared interests to be able to respond strategically to common challenges, opportunities and risks, including those posed by globalization;

6. *Recognizes* the important role that regional mechanisms such as the Andean Community, the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, the Caribbean Community, the Central American Integration System, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Common Market of the South, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and the New Partnership for Africa's Development are playing in promoting South-South cooperation, and calls upon the international community, including the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, to continue its active support thereto;

7. *Also recognizes* the role of civil society organizations and the private sector in supporting national efforts to promote South-South cooperation;

8. *Urges* developed and developing countries, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions, and other development partners to intensify their efforts to support South-South initiatives designed to benefit especially the least developed countries, landlocked and transit developing countries, small island developing States and countries in post-conflict and crisis situations, with a view to achieving economic growth and sustainable development and more equitable integration into the global economy;

9. *Reiterates* the need for the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions and other relevant multilateral institutions, to take further concrete measures to improve the networking and connectivity of South-South cooperation focal points in the United Nations system and developing and developed countries and to strengthen and expand the focal-point network to include focal points in the private sector and civil society organizations, taking advantage of the Web of Information for Development website to improve the flow of information on experts, best practices and proven development solutions in the South, and, in this regard, stresses the need to intensify triangular cooperation to facilitate the use of virtual means for promoting educational and technical exchanges between developed and developing countries;

10. *Notes with interest* the thematic discussion on "The role of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals", and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to include in their periodic reports on the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] to their governing bodies a section on South-South cooperation in their respective areas of competence;

11. *Calls upon* all Member States to bear in mind the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the deliberations of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2005;

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proclamation of 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, and encourages Member States to organize such events in the future to raise public awareness of the importance of South-South cooperation;

13. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to undertake consultations with Member States and United Nations organizations and agencies, with a view to updating the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

14. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its fifteenth session on progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action[1] and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries.

## Decision 14/2
## Overall framework for the promotion and application of South-South cooperation

*The High-level Committee*,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, which reaffirmed the need to strengthen further, within its available resources, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system,

*Welcoming* the initiatives being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment,

*Noting* the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee,[4]

1. *Urges* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to follow the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, including the United Nations Common Results Framework on Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, as approved by the High-level Committee at its thirteenth session and noted by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in the design, formulation, implementation, evaluation and reporting on their programmes;

2. *Takes note* of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation 2005-2007, and welcomes its strategic orientation, including emphasis on policy development, research, dialogue and mainstreaming; creation of an enabling environment and mechanisms for expanded South-South business cooperation and technology exchanges for poverty reduction; and fostering the sharing of Southern development knowledge and solutions;

[4] SSC/14/1 and Corr.1; and see SSC/14/2.

3. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in implementing its third cooperation framework, to design, at the request of Member States, and support the implementation of innovative South-South projects and programmes that will serve as models for replication or adaptation;

4. *Welcomes* the United Nations Development Programme Executive Board decision of 24 September 2004[5] to include South-South cooperation among the drivers of development effectiveness in the multi-year funding framework, thus making South-South cooperation a cross-cutting element in all five United Nations Development Programme practice areas, calls upon the United Nations funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions, to similarly intensify the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in all their development activities, and, in this regard, requests the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to work closely with these organizations;

5. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in assisting developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States, to establish mechanisms that will ensure more effective implementation of policies, agreements and South-South action plans, and calls upon the Special Unit to capitalize on the momentum generated by international conferences on South-South cooperation and initiatives in regional cooperation and integration to design specific follow-up and implementation actions that address the common concerns of developing countries and decisions taken in these forums in line with subregional and regional development frameworks contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[2]

6. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to intensify its support for national efforts to strengthen South-South policy implementation and to continue to work with national South-South focal points, especially those in pivotal countries, in order to scale up well-coordinated South-South cooperation programmes to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

7. *Also requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system and in full consultation with the countries concerned, to improve networking among all development actors, with a view to fostering public-private partnerships that include civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector;

8. *Reaffirms* that existing regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, and encourages the Special Unit to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

9. *Welcomes* recent progress in the development of rosters of Southern experts shared through the information system of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the Web of Information for Development, and encourages the Special

[5] Decision 2004/32.

Unit to work more closely with organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system as well as the South Centre in order to maximize the potential of the Web of Information for Development in addressing the need for information on best practices;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts to increase the availability of information on South-South cooperation, including through the electronic and print media, and calls upon the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and other members of the United Nations development system to analyse the growing volume of information on South-South cooperation to disseminate accurate qualitative and quantitative information on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, including triangular cooperation arrangements, in order to enhance prospects for South-South and triangular cooperation;

11. *Invites* the Bureau of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to continue to hold intersessional consultations aimed at assisting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to follow up on and implement decisions of the High-level Committee and inform Member States of its ongoing activities relating thereto;

12. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its fifteenth session. .

## Decision 14/3
## Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

*The High-level Committee,*

*Taking into account* the views expressed at its fourteenth session,

*Approves* the following provisional agenda for its fifteenth session, to be held in 2007:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries and the decisions of the High-level Committee.

3. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:

   (a) Implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

   (b) Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation.

4. Thematic discussion (theme to be decided on the basis of consultations that will be undertaken with Member States by the Bureau of the High-level Committee).

5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

6. Approval of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its fifteenth session.

# Chapter II
# High-level plenary segment

## A. Opening of the session

2. The fourteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation was opened by the President of the Committee at its fourteenth session, the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations, who made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Special Adviser on Africa and the Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

## B. Introduction of reports on implementation

5. The High-level Committee considered items 2 and 3 of its agenda at its meetings on 31 May and 1 June 2005.

6. The Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation introduced the following reports:

(a) Review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries (SSC/14/1 and Corr.1);

(b) Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (SSC/14/2).

## C. Discussion

7. The general debate of the High-level Committee included a review of South-South cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the "new directions" strategy endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and the decisions of the Committee itself. One of the themes to emerge from the discussion was the need to update the "new directions" strategy in order to respond to new realities. A particular focus of attention was the role of South-South cooperation in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Another major theme was the need to deal with international issues and systemic obstacles to South-South cooperation.

8. The debate affirmed that South-South cooperation was one of the important dimensions of international cooperation for development that had recently gained in relevance. Cooperation among developing countries helped to mitigate adverse elements in the global environment and allowed those countries to realize the benefits of economic and technological complementarities, which had grown

significantly in the last two decades. However, it was underlined that South-South cooperation was neither a panacea nor a substitute for North-South cooperation.

9. Triangular cooperation (developed countries supporting South-South cooperation) was universally welcomed. There was wide agreement that there was a need to broaden and strengthen this mode of cooperation.

10. The role of pivotal countries in South-South cooperation was widely viewed as important, but the concept could not capture the entire process of South-South cooperation. It was suggested that conceptualizing South-South cooperation as engaging concentric circles of cooperation would do more justice to reality.

11. In highlighting areas of significant progress as well as those where challenges had not been met, delegations made a variety of action proposals, as noted below.

12. The positive and encouraging growth in South-South cooperation over the course of the 2003-2004 biennium was lauded by speakers. Cooperation among developing countries was changing the geography of international relations, particularly in trade, financial flows and regional integration. Some developing countries had emerged as important markets, becoming significant investors in or suppliers of technology, producers of medicinal drugs and providers of technical assistance and financial aid. A number of developing countries were extending training and educational scholarships to thousands of nationals of other developing countries.

13. These changes had made it important for developing countries to enhance their endogenous capacity to formulate trade and development policies. That required closer links and sharing of information and knowledge among developing-country policymakers on trade and investment.

14. Regional arrangements in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean had mainstreamed cooperation among developing countries, and a number of pivotal countries were supporting interregional processes. The New Asian-African Strategic Partnership that had been agreed upon on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1955 Bandung Conference, in Indonesia, was a recent development of considerable importance.

15. Developing countries had put in place the policy and institutional environment for South-South cooperation and expanded the scope for participation by various stakeholders in the private sector and civil society. What was needed now was a strategic approach to prepare developing countries' entry into global markets and a means to check on progress.

16. A number of special initiatives of South-South and triangular cooperation were mentioned by delegates, including agricultural exchanges, business forums, trade and investment conferences and Internet-based information-exchange portals. The special role of small and medium-sized enterprises was noted by several speakers. The UNDP TECHNONET initiative was seen as a valuable addition to the information-sharing capacity of developing countries on best practices in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. The development of a network of libraries, research institutions and other centres of excellence in Asia and Africa with a view to sharing expertise and experience was envisaged. The point was made that South-South cooperation in the effective management of mineral and natural resources in some African countries, as appropriate, could discourage their illicit

exploitation while greater collaboration in using them more effectively could greatly increase the financial resources available for development.

17. It was recognized that South-South and triangular cooperation could be a factor in improving aid efficiency and effectiveness while emphasizing national ownership of development programmes.

18. South-South cooperation could play an increasing role in improved governance and crisis prevention and response, as well as in post-crisis reconstruction. Such cooperation was essential for overcoming the geographical disadvantages of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and for overcoming the economic vulnerabilities and weaknesses that they shared with least developed countries. It was urged that particular attention be given to issues of education, food security, population, migration, collection and analysis of statistics, disaster mitigation, health and communicable diseases, especially HIV/AIDS. Tourism was also identified as an important area for cooperation among developing countries.

19. Speakers noted that the importance of South-South cooperation had been emphasized jointly by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged countries — the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, the Almaty initiative for landlocked developing countries and the Mauritius Strategy for small island developing States all urged focused South-South cooperation to address issues of technical and financial assistance, market access, transportation constraints and inadequacy of communications.

20. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was seen as a key South-South initiative that needed the support of other developing countries and the donor community. The Peer Review Mechanism of NEPAD was cited as an important innovation of South-South cooperation in the area of political governance and security.

21. In the wake of the recent Asian tsunami, South-South cooperation had played a notable part in providing humanitarian relief. The use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the post-tsunami reconstruction was commended. A joint Southern effort to create a warning system for disasters was already being planned.

22. A number of delegations noted the increased use by the United Nations system of Southern expertise and supplies in their development and humanitarian programmes. They had found the use of Southern solutions to be cost-effective and often the most logical option. Increased use of this modality required improved coordination and governance, however. It was proposed that a South-South "manual of operations" would be useful in encouraging United Nations agencies to further mainstream the modality and perhaps emulate UNDP in ensuring that South-South cooperation becomes a real driver of development effectiveness.

23. Despite the successes achieved through South-South cooperation, developing countries faced pervasive systemic inequities in the areas of trade, finance, external debt, intellectual property rights and technology transfer, which restricted meaningful cooperation. The need to deal with such systemic problems was stressed by a number of delegations. The international monetary and financial systems were said to be in need of reform not only to promote South-South cooperation but also to

prevent crisis. While South-South cooperation remained primarily the responsibility of developing countries, developed countries had a role in removing systemic obstacles and ensuring the coherence of the international monetary, economic and trading systems.

24. Another set of constraints to South-South cooperation was structural. Communication systems and lack of connectivity within and among developing countries posed a major problem. A major initiative to improve connectivity in Africa with support from Asia was noted. Inadequate and inconsistent technical support was also identified as an obstacle to cooperation that had led to the abandonment of projects. Much wider information-sharing and awareness of realities in other developing countries were needed. In that context, the importance of the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) initiative of the Special Unit was stressed. The view was expressed that WIDE should be developed as a database containing information relevant to South-South cooperation, including the specific needs of countries and expertise available on particular issues.

25. While South-South cooperation had drawn substantial, increasing and effective financial support from developed countries, generally, agreed commitments in terms of level of aid had not been met, especially with regard to the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Lack of resources constrained the capacity of and capability for all forms of South-South cooperation, including exchange of experiences and good practices, sharing of technology and information, and joint activities in research and development.

26. There was a need for new financing modalities drawing on the private sector in both developed and developing countries. Donor countries were called upon to increase UNDP core resources, with a view to supporting the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and to contribute more to the Voluntary Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation. The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries needed a significantly higher level of resources.

27. An important interregional initiative was the decision by three countries, one Asian, one Latin American and one African, to jointly fund South-South programmes for poverty reduction. The fund would be managed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

28. The implementation of commitments made by developing countries had also been problematic. Targets and initiatives had to be feasible and manageable if they were to be productive. There was a need to consolidate the South agenda and create mechanisms to coordinate and keep South-South activities under review at all levels — bilateral, subregional, regional and global. Methods for and approaches to evaluating South-South cooperation needed to be harmonized. Specifically, there was a need to monitor the processes of knowledge management; capacity-building; the closing of the various deficits afflicting developing countries, including the digital divide and other institutional gaps; and outreach and information dissemination.

29. While the importance of South-South knowledge-sharing was widely recognized, it was acknowledged that concrete projects were also needed for economic and social development. There were calls for South-South cooperation to be more actively involved in enhancing the productive capacity of developing

countries in order to facilitate their integration into the world economy. The importance of analyses that would highlight existing opportunities was stressed.

30. There were a number of references to the need for coordinated action and South-South cooperation in ensuring the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, of the plan adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the initiatives emerging from the World Summit on the Information Society. There were also important South-South initiatives in the São Paulo Consensus of the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

31. The importance of linking South-South cooperation to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals was underlined, especially with regard to poverty reduction efforts and social development, including raising the status of women. It was considered important that the Special Unit seek to align the South-South agenda with the Millennium Development Goals through mechanisms to assist in the more effective implementation of policies, agreements and action plans, with special emphasis on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa in general. In that context, closer coordination was urged among the Special Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Special Adviser on Africa. In particular, South-South cooperation was needed in implementing goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. The need for more analysis to see how South-South approaches could be applied to development problems was noted, as was the need to study how successful projects could be scaled up to levels that would help to realize the Millennium Development Goals.

32. In the context of regional trade agreements, a number of delegations stated that South-South integration could enhance efficiency, decrease competition between peers in development, enable economies of scale, attract foreign direct investment, secure greater bargaining power and consolidate peace and security. However, regional trade agreements needed to be outward-looking, lowering trade barriers in order to contribute to the greater participation of developing countries in the world economy. The Cotonou Agreement of the European Union with 77 countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions was cited as an example of ambitious South-South-North cooperation that involved greater levels of cooperation among developing countries while simultaneously lowering barriers to the North.

33. The decision of the UNDP Executive Board to include South-South cooperation as one of six drivers of development effectiveness was seen as a useful example for the entire United Nations system in mainstreaming that modality. There was a need to build South-South cooperation into all international programmes in support of development, including those of international financial agencies. As more agencies engaged in increasing levels of South-South cooperation, coordination within the United Nations system had become important. Some delegations observed that much of the work of UNDP country offices already involved South-South cooperation. The role of UNDP resident representatives in promoting South-South cooperation needed to be strengthened. In that regard, delegates emphasized that the Special Unit had a significant institutional role for the promotion, management and coordination of South-South cooperation.

34. The Special Unit could have a special role in relevant knowledge management within the United Nations system. The UNDP Administrator's proposal for the

Special Unit to support innovative South-South initiatives and disseminate lessons learned was welcomed. The Special Unit also had an important role in outreach and dissemination of information and in attracting the attention of countries to the opportunities for South-South cooperation. In that regard, the observance of the first United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in December 2004 was noted. It was proposed that the Special Unit's publications on best practices and lessons learned be translated into local languages in developing countries for wide distribution.

35. There was a need for credible and systematic reporting on and analysis of South-South cooperation on the ground. Much work needed to be done to activate the national focal points on South-South cooperation; the Special Unit would play a proactive role in this regard. The need to strengthen national focal points and revitalize their network was emphasized.

36. The Special Unit was urged to continue close cooperation with Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and was encouraged to intensify efforts to raise new funding for South-South initiatives. It was asked specifically to collaborate more closely with developing countries willing and able to offer development assistance and with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The need to make the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation more effective was also stressed. The Special Unit was lauded for making shifts in its third cooperation framework (2005-2007) on the basis of lessons learned and the need to relate its activities to the Millennium Development Goals. One delegation suggested that there was a need to review the status of the Special Unit with a view to enhancing its capacity for broad and independent action.

# Chapter III

## Thematic discussion: the role of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

37. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation considered item 4 of its agenda, the thematic discussion on the role of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, at its fourth meeting, on 1 June 2005.

38. The topic was addressed in a keynote speech by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and by three clusters of expert panellists. The first cluster considered the themes "Poverty and hunger reduction" and "Science, technology and innovation"; the second cluster considered the themes "HIV/AIDS", "Child and maternal health" and "Women and the Millennium Development Goals"; and the third cluster considered the themes "Water and sanitation" and "Improving the lives of slum-dwellers".

39. The Under-Secretary-General, referring to the work of Argentine economist Raúl Prebisch (whose groundbreaking work led to the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the founding of the Group of 77 in 1964), described the background of cooperation among developing countries. The pattern of economic relations dominated by the developed countries had kept developing countries from building the basic infrastructural links with one another necessary for the growth of trade, investment and technical cooperation. A political process to remedy that situation had been under way since the 1950s, however, and had led to increasing trade flows, but the process remained fragile.

40. Speaking of new opportunities that had emerged but that had not been widely recognized, the Under-Secretary-General pointed to the areas of finance and technology. Examples of financial cooperation included efforts to create institutions and mechanisms entirely owned and managed by developing countries. The Under-Secretary-General looked forward to the time when regional banks would be similarly owned and capitalized by developing countries. Technical cooperation among developing countries was well advanced, but technological cooperation was also becoming important. A number of developing countries had advanced technological capacities, including in the biosciences. In fact, some developing countries now had capabilities more advanced than those of developed countries.

41. In introducing the panel members, the moderator of the panel discussion, the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, stated that it was important to focus on what developing countries could do for themselves and what must be done by the international community to support their efforts. Policies were needed that would address economic and social concerns in an integrated manner.

42. The presenter of the theme "Poverty and hunger reduction" noted that South-South cooperation was "embedded" within each of the Millennium Development Goals. Because some developing countries had made significant progress towards the Goals, there were rich opportunities for cooperation. There were no magic bullets for achieving the Goals, however; each case of cooperation would have to be approached on the basis of prevailing realities. A combination of technical cooperation, financing, investment and other inputs would be required. To discover

the right combination, it would be necessary to ask what each country needed to do to achieve the Goals by 2015 and then work backwards to the present. It was also necessary to work up from the community level in deciding inputs. Where people were unable to pay for services needed to realize the Goals, they should not have to pay. South-South sharing of experience and information could be a factor in shaping national strategies, and where regional action was necessary, cooperation could involve technical cooperation and financing of projects.

43. The presenter of the theme "Science, technology and innovation" reviewed the wide range of South-South actions that were possible and necessary to achieve the Goals. South-South cooperation could play a role in everything from research to application of technology, from training personnel to supporting entrepreneurs. There was no time for fundamental scientific research, but it was necessary to find out what was best suited for any situation. Building infrastructure was a basic need, one that South-South cooperation could support with technical support and financing. Several middle-income developing countries had agreed to provide post-doctoral fellowships through the Third World Academy of Sciences.

44. The discussion that followed the presentations highlighted the importance of appropriate policies and the urgency of developing basic institutional and physical infrastructure. There were several cases of demonstrated success in poverty reduction and increasing school enrolment. Based on those, concrete proposals would be placed before the forthcoming Second South Summit (12-16 June, Doha). Scaling up the successful models so as to realize the Millennium Development Goals would require substantial new flows of financial assistance. The World Trade University, which had been launched during the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, was cited as an example of a global public-private partnership mechanism to help build professional capacities in the South for the promotion of intra-South trade and investment.

45. The three presenters of the themes "HIV/AIDS", "Child and maternal health" and "Women and the Millennium Development Goals" concurred that enormously beneficial action could be taken immediately if appropriate policies were adopted and the necessary capacities developed.

46. The presenter of the theme "HIV/AIDS" provided a visual representation of a person afflicted with AIDS, showing the dramatic difference wrought by treatment with antiretroviral drugs. The photographs could be seen as a poster throughout Africa, he said, but the patient portrayed was Haitian. The message of hope had crossed many borders but the reality differed from country to country. Many people continued to die for lack of treatment. South-South cooperation could energize policy formulation and action on a range of key variables such as drug pricing and availability as well as training and remuneration of medical personnel.

47. The presenter of the theme "Child and maternal health" observed that the present maternal and neonatal death rates in poor countries were prevalent a century ago in Western countries, where they had then been reduced because of determined government policies. There was clear evidence that this could be done in a developing country with the appropriate mix of policies and practices. The experience of non-governmental organizations in this field was valuable and should be tapped in shaping governmental policies. There was no need for new science; what was known merely had to be applied.

48. The presenter of the theme "Women and the Millennium Development Goals" emphasized that the policy focus on drugs in disease prevention should not distract attention from the importance of adequate nourishment and clean water in preserving health. In devising any strategy to reduce deaths from diseases and childbirth, policymakers should focus on the specific situations within each country. They should ensure that the very poor did not have to pay user fees for medical care. Poor expectant and nursing mothers were the least able to pay for care. There should also be consideration of how to compensate African countries for the brain drain, which took so many of their trained medical personnel away to serve affluent populations in developed countries.

49. In the discussion that followed the presentations, participants indicated that developing countries could play a role in improving the existing situation by setting the right policies and ensuring adequate support for medical care. There was also a need to address the issue of international debt of poor countries and to engage the private sector in providing care.

50. The presenter of the theme "Water and sanitation" underlined the importance of pricing policies in the supply of water and sanitation services. The principle that the poor should not have to pay for these services seemed obvious, but in reality, they were paying much more than the affluent sections of developing countries because they were forced to buy from private vendors. Innovative solutions to the problem of inadequate infrastructure had come from Governments and civil society, including a policy of providing 20 litres of water per person per day free of cost, a policy of "condominium" development of water and sanitation services in poor neighbourhoods, a pour-flush latrine that was being used by 10 million people a day and a ventilated improved pit latrine for use in areas where there were no sanitation facilities.

51. The presenter of the theme "Improving the lives of slum-dwellers" pointed out that cities were increasingly becoming home to larger numbers of the population in developing countries, underscoring the need to address the needs of new city-dwellers. South-South cooperation offered substantial potential for technical, financial and institutional "leapfrogging" of problems.

52. The presenter of the Millennium Development Goals Campaign, which had been launched at the January 2005 World Social Forum, noted that most developing countries had prepared their own reports on how to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and on the basis of those, regional and subregional reports had been prepared. The commitment to achieve the Goals had to come from the Governments, and the Millennium Development Goals Campaign aimed to engage members of civil society as advocates with their own Governments. Globally, non-governmental organizations in about 100 countries were engaged in the Campaign.

53. In closing the session, the moderator acknowledged the clear link between South-South and triangular cooperation and the measures required to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Many participants observed that the thematic discussion was timely in the context of the forthcoming Second South Summit, to be held in Doha in June 2005, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration review summit (the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly), to be held in September 2005.

# Chapter IV
## Report of the Working Group

54. At its fifth meeting, on 3 June 2005, the High-level Committee considered item 5 of its agenda.

55. The Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of the Working Group and Vice-President of the High-level Committee, Kazuo Sunaga (Japan), introduced the report of the Working Group.

56. The High-level Committee adopted the report of the Working Group.

# Chapter V

## Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

57. The High-level Committee considered items 6 and 7 of its agenda at its fifth meeting, on 3 June 2005.

58. At the same meeting, the High-level Committee approved the provisional agenda for its fifteenth session (see chap. I, decision 14/3).

59. By the same decision, the High-level Committee authorized the President to consult with the representatives of Member States on the thematic discussion of the fifteenth session and to communicate the decision taken based on those consultations to the Member States ahead of the fifteenth session in order to enable delegates to take appropriate preparatory actions.

# Chapter VI

## Draft report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its fourteenth session

60. At its fifth meeting, on 3 June 2005, the High-level Committee considered item 8 of its agenda.

61. The Rapporteur, Mohamed Elfarnawany (Egypt), introduced the draft report of the High-level Committee.

62. The High-level Committee adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

# Chapter VII
## Closure of the session

63. The Associate Administrator of UNDP made a closing statement at the fifth meeting, on 3 June 2005.

64. At the same meeting, closing statements were also made by representatives of the Group of 77 and China and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, as well as the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

# Chapter VIII
# Organizational matters

## A. Date and place of the session

65. The High-level Committee held its fourteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 31 May to 3 June 2005, preceded by an organizational meeting on 10 May 2005.

66. Information on the establishment, background, history, chronology and previous sessions of the High-level Committee are contained in the previous reports of the Committee to the General Assembly.[6]

67. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

## B. Attendance

68. The session was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP. Also attending were non-Member States maintaining a permanent observer mission at Headquarters; regional commissions; United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and other entities; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; intergovernmental organizations attending as observers; private-sector organizations, institutions and agencies that received an invitation to attend the thematic discussion; and individuals who received a special invitation to attend the session as panellists. For a list of those attending the fourteenth session, see annex I to the present report.

## C. Election of officers

69. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

*President*:

Eladio Loizaga, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* and corrigendum (A/35/39 and Corr.1); ibid., *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/36/39); ibid., *Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/38/39); ibid., *Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/40/39); ibid., *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/42/39); ibid., *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/44/39); ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/46/39); ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/48/39); ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/50/39); ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/52/39); ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39); ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/56/39); and ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39).

*Vice-Presidents*:
Lubln Dilja (Albania)
Hjálmar W. Hannesson (Iceland)
Kazuo Sunaga (Japan)

*Rapporteur*:
Mohamed Elfarnawany (Egypt)

70. The High-level Committee approved the President's recommendation that Kazuo Sunaga serve as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman of the Working Group should also serve as its Rapporteur.

## D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

71. The High-level Committee held its organizational meeting in New York on 10 May 2005 to elect the Bureau for the fourteenth session and to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work.

72. The High-level Committee adopted the provisional annotated agenda (SSC/14/L.2) and the organization of work (SSC/14/L.3) for its fourteenth session. A general debate would be held in the plenary on 31 May and 1 June 2005 on items 2 and 3. The Working Group, scheduled to begin its work on 2 June 2005, was assigned agenda items 2, 3, 4 and 5 for substantive discussion and charged with making recommendations to the Committee. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its fourteenth session, see annex II to the present report.

# Annex I

## List of those attending the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

1. The following Member States of the United Nations or States participating in the United Nations Development Programme were represented at the session:

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Barbados
Belarus
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Fiji
France
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Holy See
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Namibia
Nepal
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Serbia and Montenegro
Singapore
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Suriname
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following United Nations bodies, funds and programmes were represented:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Population Fund

World Food Programme

3. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Labour Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Health Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Tourism Organization

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented at the session:

African Union

Caribbean Community

International Organization for Migration

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Partners in Population and Development

5. Representatives of the following non-governmental and other organizations attended the session as observers:

Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants

Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

6. The following individuals who received a special invitation to attend the session as a keynote speaker and/or panellist attended the session:

José Antonio Ocampo (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs)

Ibrahim A. Gambari (United Nations Special Adviser on Africa)

Chandrika Bahadur (Policy Adviser, United Nations Millennium Project)

Yee-Cheong Lee (President, World Federation of Engineering Organizations)

Josh Ruxin (Director, Program to Scale Up Health in Developing Countries, Earth Institute and Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University)

Allan Rosenfield (Dean, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University)

Yassine Fall (Senior Policy Adviser, United Nations Millennium Project)

Roberto Lenton (Executive Director, Secretariat for International Affairs and Development, International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, Columbia University)

Pietro Garau (Department of Architecture, University of Rome)

Salil Shetty (Director, United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign)

# Annex II

## List of documents before the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session

1. The following documents were before the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session:

(a) Organizational meeting, New York, 10 May 2005 (SSC/14/L.1);

(b) Provisional annotated agenda, including list of documents (SSC/14/L.2);

(c) Note by the Administrator on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work (SSC/14/L.3);

(d) Review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries (SSC/14/1 and Corr.1);

(e) Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (SSC/14/2).

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